



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

June 5, 2006

Dear Members of the Sears Island Stakeholder Process:

I am encouraged to hear that you have held your first meeting and that you have made progress on finalizing your membership and identifying the issues which must be analyzed as you work toward recommendations on the future uses of Sears Island.

I do not underestimate the challenges which you will confront as you enter into this dialogue with one another. However, as I have said before, I am committed to this process and I expect that, in the best tradition of Maine people, your group will work in good faith to produce a consensus set of recommendations by the end of this year.

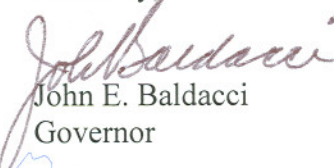
I am told that some question has arisen about how my Administration will receive your work. Let me be clear: to the extent that you produce consensus recommendations which address all the respective interests, I expect to be guided by your findings and will give serious consideration to their implementation. As mandated by L.D. 277, I will work with many of you and with the Legislature to fashion a management plan to implement your recommendations for Sears Island which give all Maine people clarity about permissible uses for the Island.

Rest assured that no one in my Administration will take **any** action regarding Sears Island until your group has had the opportunity to develop your recommendations. I know that the history of Sears Island during several gubernatorial administrations has left some people mistrustful of the State's intentions. Nevertheless, I have directed all state agencies to fully cooperate with your stakeholder process, and to take any and all actions they can, consistent with their mandates, which will lead to consensus.

Maine citizens and businesses can no longer afford any uncertainty about the future of Sears Island. We are looking to your discussions to provide us a path forward of which we can all feel proud. Please take advantage of your power as a stakeholder group to analyze and discuss the issues in a way that is respectful of one another, and which leads to comprehensive, well-reasoned and sound recommendations. If you do your part, I pledge to do mine.

I want to personally thank you for all your sacrifices and service in this important work.

Sincerely,


John E. Baldacci
Governor


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